



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **South Carolina's Employment Situation April 2012**

#### *Unemployment Rate Continues Decline*

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined for the ninth consecutive month. The rate fell from 8.9 percent in March to 8.8 percent in April. The number of employed dropped by 3,256 to 1,961,327, and the number of unemployed decreased by 2,799 to 189,865. The overall labor force fell 6,055 to 2,151,192 people.

In the last year, approximately 28,290 people found work, signaling ongoing improvement. The labor force as a whole has declined slightly over the year (-5,598), as has the level of unemployed persons, falling 33,887 since April 2011.

Nationally, the unemployment rate dropped from 8.2 percent in March to 8.1 percent in April, with about 340,000 people leaving the labor force in April.

The not-seasonally adjusted non-farm payroll survey showed an increase of 13,500 jobs from March to April 2012. Leisure and Hospitality employment (+7,300) showed a substantial increase for the third consecutive month. The majority of this increase was in the Food and Drinking sector. Trade, Transportation and Utilities increased by 3,400, mostly in Retail Trade activity. Professional and Business Services jobs (+1,000), Manufacturing (+300), and Construction (+500) also showed improvements for the second consecutive month. Education and Health Services increased (+1,300), mostly in Health Care and Social Assistance, while Government jobs fell by 500, primarily in local governments.

Since April 2011, total non-farm employment rose by 16,100 jobs. Manufacturing (+7,800) and Trade Transportation and Utilities (+5,400), experienced the greatest increases. The sub-sectors of Employment Services (+4,600) as well as Health Care and Social Assistance (+2,200) also reported notable gains.

Online job ads in South Carolina, as reported by the Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series, showed a small increase of 400 ads from March to April. The number of jobseekers per opening rose slightly from 4.4 to 4.5 this past month. Online ads across the U.S. saw an increase (+90,900) in the last month. Compared to a year ago, online ads in South Carolina were about 1,000 higher in April 2012.

The Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties) had the most ads (12,606), with the Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland Counties) coming in next (11,020). Of all online ads, Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations had the highest number of ads in the state (9,489).

“The decline in the state’s unemployment rate coupled with the number of jobs announcements in recent months show positive signs of growth and stability for South Carolina’s economy.” said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director Abraham J. Turner.

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# **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

**Statewide**

**April 2012**

Jobs by Industry	April 2012	March 2012	April 2011	March 2012 to April 2012		April 2011 to April 2012	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	1,857,800	1,844,300	1,841,700	13,500	0.73%	16,100	0.87%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,800	3,800	3,900	0	0.00%	-100	-2.56%
Construction	74,500	74,000	77,100	500	0.68%	-2,600	-3.37%
Manufacturing	222,200	221,900	214,400	300	0.14%	7,800	3.64%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	354,200	350,800	348,800	3,400	0.97%	5,400	1.55%
Information	26,200	26,600	25,700	-400	-1.50%	500	1.95%
Financial Activities	95,000	94,900	96,000	100	0.11%	-1,000	-1.04%
Professional and Business Services	230,600	229,600	230,100	1,000	0.44%	500	0.22%
Education and Health Services	220,000	218,700	217,400	1,300	0.59%	2,600	1.20%
Leisure and Hospitality	214,900	207,600	214,200	7,300	3.52%	700	0.33%
Government	346,500	347,000	345,300	-500	-0.14%	1,200	0.35%

**Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted**

## **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

**April 2012**

INDUSTRY TITLE	April 2012	March 2012	April 2011	March 2012 to April 2012		April 2011 to April 2012	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Statewide</b>	1,857,800	1,844,300	1,841,700	13,500	0.73%	16,100	0.87%
Anderson MSA	58,100	57,400	60,500	700	1.22%	-2,400	-3.97%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	299,600	297,200	295,800	2,400	0.81%	3,800	1.28%
Columbia MSA	352,300	350,300	347,300	2,000	0.57%	5,000	1.44%
Florence MSA	85,300	84,300	81,000	1,000	1.19%	4,300	5.31%
Greenville MSA	304,000	304,000	304,300	0	0.00%	-300	-0.10%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	116,400	112,900	114,400	3,500	3.10%	2,000	1.75%
Spartanburg MSA	119,900	119,800	115,700	100	0.08%	4,200	3.63%
Sumter MSA	36,900	36,800	37,200	100	0.27%	-300	-0.81%

**Note:** Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE**  
**(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

AREA		April 2012				March 2012				April 2011			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	↓	11,877	9,882	1,995	16.8	11,998	9,914	2,084	17.4	12,231	9,895	2,336	19.1
Marlboro County	↓	11,398	9,606	1,792	15.7	11,614	9,741	1,873	16.1	11,682	9,658	2,024	17.3
Allendale County	↓	3,257	2,752	505	15.5	3,313	2,788	525	15.8	3,240	2,709	531	16.4
Barnwell County	↓	8,345	7,202	1,143	13.7	8,405	7,225	1,180	14.0	8,616	7,338	1,278	14.8
Union County	↓	11,305	9,780	1,525	13.5	11,352	9,813	1,539	13.6	11,548	9,800	1,748	15.1
Clarendon County	↑	12,332	10,681	1,651	13.4	12,378	10,767	1,611	13.0	12,468	10,652	1,816	14.6
Bamberg County	↓	6,105	5,290	815	13.3	6,143	5,317	826	13.4	6,357	5,518	839	13.2
Dillon County	↓	13,074	11,356	1,718	13.1	13,217	11,442	1,775	13.4	13,394	11,417	1,977	14.8
Chester County	↓	14,327	12,477	1,850	12.9	14,452	12,501	1,951	13.5	14,826	12,510	2,316	15.6
Orangeburg County	–	40,484	35,601	4,883	12.1	40,650	35,715	4,935	12.1	41,767	36,396	5,371	12.9
Fairfield County	↓	10,809	9,524	1,285	11.9	10,854	9,530	1,324	12.2	10,750	9,427	1,323	12.3
McCormick County	↓	3,288	2,899	389	11.8	3,332	2,908	424	12.7	3,441	2,952	489	14.2
Lee County	↑	8,113	7,170	943	11.6	8,198	7,253	945	11.5	8,160	7,138	1,022	12.5
Hampton County	↓	7,642	6,765	877	11.5	7,723	6,818	905	11.7	7,764	6,725	1,039	13.4
Williamsburg County	↓	16,036	14,197	1,839	11.5	16,189	14,265	1,924	11.9	15,860	13,899	1,961	12.4
Chesterfield County	↓	18,588	16,513	2,075	11.2	18,777	16,578	2,199	11.7	18,902	16,444	2,458	13.0
Lancaster County	↓	30,372	26,993	3,379	11.1	30,533	26,993	3,540	11.6	31,200	26,960	4,240	13.6
Cherokee County	↓	24,570	21,875	2,695	11.0	24,704	21,864	2,840	11.5	25,143	21,968	3,175	12.6
Colleton County	↓	17,006	15,156	1,850	10.9	17,105	15,213	1,892	11.1	16,917	14,799	2,118	12.5
York County	↓	110,733	99,595	11,138	10.1	111,207	99,400	11,807	10.6	115,009	99,189	15,820	13.8
Sumter County	↑	44,161	39,800	4,361	9.9	44,283	39,941	4,342	9.8	44,982	40,091	4,891	10.9
Calhoun County	↑	6,709	6,053	656	9.8	6,665	6,057	608	9.1	6,721	5,991	730	10.9
Greenwood County	–	30,572	27,621	2,951	9.7	30,559	27,590	2,969	9.7	31,078	27,758	3,320	10.7
Florence County	–	63,772	57,708	6,064	9.5	63,551	57,491	6,060	9.5	62,061	55,337	6,724	10.8
Horry County	↓	128,187	116,008	12,179	9.5	126,402	113,391	13,011	10.3	129,401	115,172	14,229	11.0
Abbeville County	↓	10,591	9,592	999	9.4	10,604	9,600	1,004	9.5	11,103	9,888	1,215	10.9
Darlington County	↓	30,755	27,957	2,798	9.1	30,701	27,853	2,848	9.3	30,286	26,809	3,477	11.5
Georgetown County	↓	29,672	26,985	2,687	9.1	29,772	26,948	2,824	9.5	29,912	26,735	3,177	10.6
Spartanburg County	–	132,834	121,448	11,386	8.6	133,381	121,871	11,510	8.6	131,380	118,288	13,092	10.0
Edgefield County	↓	11,006	10,071	935	8.5	11,048	10,078	970	8.8	11,424	10,425	999	8.7
Laurens County	↓	30,336	27,746	2,590	8.5	30,548	27,862	2,686	8.8	30,928	27,816	3,112	10.1
Anderson County	↓	81,461	74,745	6,716	8.2	81,370	74,519	6,851	8.4	85,005	77,085	7,920	9.3
Oconee County	↓	30,770	28,234	2,536	8.2	30,857	28,284	2,573	8.3	31,276	28,264	3,012	9.6
Newberry County	↓	18,055	16,588	1,467	8.1	18,238	16,740	1,498	8.2	18,520	16,770	1,750	9.4
Jasper County	↓	10,414	9,595	819	7.9	10,466	9,581	885	8.5	10,307	9,300	1,007	9.8
Richland County	↑	180,806	166,681	14,125	7.8	180,772	166,794	13,978	7.7	180,256	164,978	15,278	8.5
Aiken County	↓	74,065	68,498	5,567	7.5	74,493	68,541	5,952	8.0	77,508	70,905	6,603	8.5
Berkeley County	↓	83,992	77,695	6,297	7.5	83,905	77,447	6,458	7.7	84,218	76,923	7,295	8.7
Kershaw County	–	29,330	27,121	2,209	7.5	29,356	27,140	2,216	7.5	29,489	26,844	2,645	9.0
Pickens County	–	57,428	53,141	4,287	7.5	57,698	53,364	4,334	7.5	57,902	53,275	4,627	8.0
Saluda County	↑	9,016	8,343	673	7.5	9,009	8,349	660	7.3	9,009	8,258	751	8.3
Beaufort County	–	64,098	59,592	4,506	7.0	63,998	59,506	4,492	7.0	62,887	57,755	5,132	8.2
Charleston County	↑	176,181	163,876	12,305	7.0	175,372	163,354	12,018	6.9	175,897	162,248	13,649	7.8
Dorchester County	–	68,220	63,527	4,693	6.9	68,053	63,325	4,728	6.9	68,129	62,896	5,233	7.7
Greenville County	–	222,803	207,792	15,011	6.7	223,737	208,664	15,073	6.7	225,941	208,314	17,627	7.8
Lexington County	↓	132,859	124,038	8,821	6.6	133,090	124,123	8,967	6.7	132,729	122,771	9,958	7.5
Charleston MSA	–	328,393	305,098	23,295	7.1	327,330	304,126	23,204	7.1	328,245	302,068	26,177	8.0
Columbia MSA	–	369,531	341,760	27,771	7.5	369,746	341,993	27,753	7.5	368,953	338,268	30,685	8.3
Florence MSA	↓	94,527	85,665	8,862	9.4	94,252	85,344	8,908	9.5	92,347	82,146	10,201	11.0
Greenville MSA	↓	310,567	288,679	21,888	7.0	311,983	289,890	22,093	7.1	314,770	289,405	25,365	8.1

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina	↓	2,151,192	1,961,327	189,865	8.8	2,157,247	1,964,583	192,664	8.9	2,156,790	1,933,038	223,752	10.4
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Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up  
↓ Unemployment Rate Down  
– Unemployment Rate =